Application No.: 09/690,721
Group Art Unit: 2654

Attorney Docket No: 1999-0679

## REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested. By this amendment, claims 1-4, 7-23 and 25-27 remain pending, claims 5, 6, 24 and 28 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 29-31 having been newly added.

Applicants amended claims 1, 7 and 27 to more clearly define the invention. Applicants amended claims 23 and 25 to depend directly from claim 1 instead of from claim 11. Applicants amended claim 26 from being an independent claim to being a dependent claim, depending from claim 27. The remaining claim amendments were made to improve presentation and do not change the scope of the claims.

### Rejection of Claims 1-28

On page 2 of the Final Office Action of July 5, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over "Processing of Semantic Information in fluently spoken language", Proceedings., International Conference on Spoken language, 1996. ICSLP 96, vol. 2, pages 1001-1004 by Gorin in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,651,095 to Ogden. Applicants submit that the amendments to claims 1 and 27 obviate the rejection. Claims 5, 6, 24 and 28 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection of claims 5, 6, 24 and 28 be withdrawn.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a method of task classification using morphemes which operates on a task objective of a user, where the morphemes were generated by clustering selected ones of salient sub-morphemes or salient phone phrases from training speech which are semantically and syntactically similar. The method includes, among other things, detecting morphemes present in an input communication from the user by utilizing an input speech recognizer, the input communication including verbal speech

from the user, wherein the input speech recognizer detects the morphemes present in the verbal speech from the user.

On page 2 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner admitted that Gorin fails to disclose or suggest using morphemes or sub-morphemes. The Examiner relied on Ogden, at col. 2, lines 45-65, to disclose or suggest detecting morphemes in user input. However, Ogden is concerned with producing synthesized speech from input text. Neither Gorin nor Ogden disclose or suggest, either separately or in combination, detecting morphemes present in an input communication from the user by utilizing an input speech recognizer, the input communication including verbal speech from the user, wherein the input speech recognizer detects the morphemes present in the verbal speech from the user, as required by claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-4, 7-23 and 25 depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Gorin and Ogden for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 2-4, 7-23 and 25 be withdrawn.

Claim 7 and dependent claims 8 and 9 are further patentable over Gorin and Ogden for other reasons. For example, claim 7 and dependent claims 8 and 9 further recite entering into a dialog with the user to obtain a feedback response from the user when a task-type classification decision cannot be made based on the input communication from the user. Applicants submit that neither Gorin nor Ogden disclose or suggest this feature, either separately or in combination.

Amended independent claim 27 is directed to a method of task classification which operates on a task objective of a user. The method includes, among other things, detecting morphemes present in an input communication from the user by utilizing an input speech recognizer to recognize the detected morphemes in verbal speech. Applicants submit that this feature is similar to the feature previously discussed with respect to claim 1. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 27 is patentable over Gorin and Ogden for at least reasons

similar to those discussed with respect to claim 1. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection of claim 27 be withdrawn.

Claim 26 depends from claim 27 and is patentable over Gorin and Ogden for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 27. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 26 be withdrawn.

**New Claims 29-31**

New claims 29-31 depend from claim 1 or claim 27 and are patentable over Gorin and Ogden for at least the reasons discussed with respect to claim 1 or claim 27. Applicants further submit that claims 30 and 31 are patentable for other reasons. For example, claim 30 recites applying a ASR phone recognizer to verbal training speech to produce a plurality of candidate phone-phrases, and claim 31, which depends directly from claim 30, further recites that the ASR phone recognizer utilizes a phonotactic language model. Applicants submit that the cited references fail to disclose or suggest these features.

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## CONCLUSION

Having addressed all rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request a notice to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

By: Richard C. Irving

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(September 5, 2005 = Labor Day)

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